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INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3992
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RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8588
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 2561
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA CC SEOUL KOR
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2018
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SUBJECT: ROK WILL SUPPORT CALLS FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION
IN MAY BURMESE REFERENDUM

REF: STATE 26677

Classified By: POL M/C Joseph Yun. Reasons 1.4(b/d)

¶1. (C) In a March 19 meeting with poloff, Han Woo-yong, MOFAT Deputy Director for Southeast Asian Affairs, said in response to reftel points that the ROK has consistently expressed its desire for authentic democratization in Burma to Burmese officials. As such, it would have no problem urging Burma, in both bilateral and multilateral settings, to hold its planned May referendum according to internationally accepted standards for free and fair elections and referenda. Burmese minority and opposition groups should be included in the lead-up to this referendum, Han said.

¶2. (C) The ROK would also continue its vocal and public support for the U.N. Good Offices mission. Han noted the ROK's participation in the Friends of Gambari meeting in the U.N., and said that the ROK was the only Asian state to participate in resolutions on Burma.
VERSHBOW